

JOHN BOSS, MARIANNA
GERTSCH BOSS AND
MARGARETA GERTSCH BOSS



John Boss, son of Conrad Boss and Margareta Boss (no relation) Boss. Born November 2, 1831, in Gundlischwand, Berner Oberland, Switzerland.

Married Marianna Gertsch, January 1857,

in G Stetzwiler, Berner Oberland, Switzerland.

Married Margareta Gertsch, April 30, 1891, at Interlaken, Switzerland.

Died March 12, 1912, Midway.

Marianna Gertsch, daughter of Christian Gertsch and Maria Schumacher Gertsch.

Born April 11, 1836.

Died August 22, 1885.

Margareta Gertsch, daughter of Conrad Gertsch and Marianna Gertsch (no relation) Gertsch.

Born April 26, 1873, at Wengen, Berner Oberland, Switzerland.

Died March 27, 1908, Salt Lake City. Buried in Midway.

John Boss was a native of Switzerland. For at least three generations his progenitors belonged to the Lutheran faith.

Mormonism was introduced into Switzerland in 1850 by Thomas B. H. Stenhouse, a Mormon missionary. He introduced it under authoritative direction. John Boss was then in his nineteenth year of age. The residence of the John Boss family was at the base of the Alps in the little town of Gundlischwand, in Berner Oberland.

The father of John Boss was a farmer and builder of homes. He, in turn, instructed his son in this craft and most useful profession. Later on, John Boss became proficient in erecting new homes and entered into contractual work. He became a designer and architect of renown. There are standing today beautiful tourist hotels which he constructed.

In the year 1875 he was convinced Mormonism was true. He embraced this new faith, became baptized, and was confirmed a member December 26 this same year.

John Boss married Marianna Gertsch. Together they were the parents of twelve sons and daughters. His wife died August 22, 1885.

Commencing with the year 1888, a daughter and in the following two years, two more daughters and one son, emigrated to Utah. These also were converts to the Mormon faith. The spirit of gathering actuated John Boss to arrange his affairs and prepare to go to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains where the Saints of the last days were gathering. In the early spring of 1891, John Boss married his second wife, Margareta Gertsch. At the time, she was a convert to Mormonism as were also her father, mother, brother and sisters. This marriage took

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

place April 30, 1891, at Interlaken. The papers authorizing his emigration to Utah bear the date of April 28, 1891. Their arrival at New York was May 20, 1891. Ten days later they were in Salt Lake City, and from thence were sent to Midway. This valley had been assigned to receive many Swiss converts, because it partook so much of the atmosphere of their Alpine home-land.

After his residence in the valley, John Boss continued his former profession. He built homes, other buildings, and assisted in construction of the Midway school house. His building activities continued until his decline of health.

From his second marriage nine children were born. All were born at Midway, Wasatch County, Utah. The date of these children's births, as also marriages, and deaths are as follows:

John Boss, Jr., born June 19, 1891. He married Clara Jane Afford, June 8, 1938.

William Boss, born July 24, 1892; married Annie Bischoff, January 8, 1920.

Arnold Boss, born January 12, 1894; married Annie J. Halladay, October 7, 1919.

Ida Margaret Boss, born September 20, 1895; married Ervin Peterson, November 29, 1916.

Conrad Boss, born December 27, 1897; married Ruby Abegglen, October 19, 1921.

Rosetta Boss, born February 27, 1900; married Gerald Olsen, August 23, 1922.

Clara Boss, born August 23, 1902; married Alvin Pace, September 14, 1927. She died at Hoytsville, Utah, August 30, 1933.

Henry Boss, born March 29, 1905. He died at Midway, May 25, 1913.

Stella Boss, born April 9, 1906. She died at Midway, October 24, 1909.

in training, as is evident from the agenda of one meeting of the Wasatch County Education Assn.

With Supt. Wootton in charge, the agenda was as follows:

- (1) A report of a committee appointed to select a list of books to be approved by the members as fit literature to be added to the library;
- (2) A special lecture by Leo Haefeli on the Absurdity of Trying to Make the English Language Fit the Latin Grammar;
- (3) Exercise by E. D. Clyde in using the teachers as a class to illustrate his method of teaching multiplication of common fractions.
- (4) General discussions by members on declension of the English noun;
- (5) Subject of percentages.

Trustees of the schools were also expected to attend these meetings along with the teachers.

When Utah became a state in 1896 it was necessary by law to elect a new school board and C. I. Bronson, John Huber and John Van Wagoner were voted to three, two and one-year terms respectively. Their salary was \$20 per year.

At the first meeting of the new board, they engaged Airtewall Wootton as teacher of the grammar grades and principal for \$75 per month. William T. Wootton, intermediate department, \$50 per month; J. E. Morton, second primary, \$50; and Simon Epperson, Primary Department, \$50. In addition to the three rooms in the school house, the Swiss-German Hall was rented for \$5 per month. Custodian at the main building was Louis Coleman, who was paid \$12.50 per month. Andrew Barger was paid \$5 per month to care for the Swiss-German Hall.

By 1898 the "growing pains" had seriously affected the Midway educational program. Teachers were handling 50 or more pupils each day in crowded, inadequate classrooms.

The school board subsequently called a meeting to discuss the crowded conditions, but the proposals failed to obtain a majority vote, and so they continued on as they had the past year.

By 1900 the school board obtained a vote to proceed with an entirely new school building. They purchased the property north of the present school for \$168.75 from the Midway Town Corporation in February of 1901.

Architect John Boss was asked to draw plans and make estimates for a new building with four rooms. In a meeting of the taxpayers in March, the clerk reported that the school district had \$512 in material and about \$900 in cash to begin the new building. The taxpayers voted a tax of one-half of one per cent to bring in about \$800 more so that at least two rooms could be ready for occupancy by the winter term. Plans for a six-room school were also discussed, but after some discussion were abandoned.

Work then began in earnest, with the board offering \$1.50 per day

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John Boss
Architect
of early Midway
school

